



Team 9, a Joint Venture
 3700 Industry Avenue, Suite 102
 Lakewood, CA 90712
 Tel: (562) 989-8494
 Fax: (562) 989-8537

November 16, 2007

TDD No. TO1-09-07-10-0004

Mr. Tom Dunkelman, Federal On-Scene Coordinator
 United States Environmental Protection Agency
 Emergency Response Section
 901 South Stewart Street
 Carson City, Nevada 89701

Subject: Site Visits
Mushroom Express Wildfire-Impacted Facility; Golsh Road Scrap Yard
Rincon, San Diego County, California

Mr. Dunkelman:

The Team 9 Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) conducted site visits at the burned Mushroom Express facility on November 9, 2007 and at the Golsh Road scrap yard, (address unknown) on November 10, 2007.

Mushroom Express

The perimeters of the Mushroom Express property were unclear. During the visit to this facility, the following potentially-hazardous substances or wastes were identified:

- 10 burned drums (only 2 potentially unopened)
- 4 high-pressure gas cylinders
- 50 burned oil filters
- 2 large (15+ gallon) propane cylinders
- 3 small propane cylinders
- 4 unknown not-burned drums
- 2 large (500 gal?) tanks
- 1 half-buried 250-gal tank
- 10-20 burned 1-gallon paint cans
- 5 drums of possible product in furniture trailer
- 2 very large (3-foot high) batteries
- 2 drums of possible product in another trailer
- 5-gallon bucket of oily sludge

It is unclear whether all these materials are on Mushroom Express property, and whether some of the materials might belong to other entities. For example, five drums of potential product in a trailer marked, "Furniture" may be located on an adjacent property.

At least one family with children is living in a trailer immediately adjacent to the potentially-hazardous materials found at the site. During the site visit, approximately five children were observed walking home to their trailer through the site.



On November 14, 2007 USEPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Tom Dunkelman contacted Marvin Donlis, who had been identified by the Rincon Tribe as the owner of the Mushroom Express facility. Mr. Donlis indicated that it was his intention to conduct the removal of oil and hazardous materials himself, using the company that normally collects his waste oil. Mr. Dunkelman indicated that USEPA would check back periodically to monitor his progress.

Scrap Yard

During a site visit to the scrap yard on Golsh Road, the START/USEPA identified 12 open 55-gallon drums of waste oil, some full to the point of overflowing. The soil around the drums was discolored from apparent waste oil. Other hazardous materials found at the scrap yard include numerous car batteries, and numerous small- to medium-sized propane cylinders. The scrap yard did not appear to have been significantly impacted by fire.

The scrap yard is located approximately 1700 feet northeast of the San Luis Rey River. There may be potential for waste oil to travel offsite and reach the river during a significant rain event. Kristie Orosco, the Environmental Director for the Rincon Tribe, reported that groundwater in the area is very shallow and that nearby wells are screened at depths as shallow as thirty feet. As such, the waste oil could pose a threat to drinking water resources.

During a meeting with Ms. Orosco on November 14, OSCs Powell and Dunkelman related to Ms. Orosco that USEPA's jurisdiction over the waste oil was potentially limited under the Oil Pollution Act pending identification of a potential impact to a navigable waterway. Mr. Powell and Mr. Dunkelman suggested that removal of the drums of waste oil should be addressed under Tribal authority.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at 415/828-9419.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Schwennesen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Schwennesen
START Project Manager